

Town of Southern Shores CRS 510

2014 Progress Report for

Floodplain Management/Hazard Mitigation Plan

Name of Plan: Town of Southern Shores Hazard Mitigation Plan

Date Adopted: June 11, 2010

Location where copies are available for review: Town Hall, Town Website

Review of Action Plan:

- 1. Continue enforcement of the Zoning Ordinance as a hazard mitigation tool**
 - The Town continues to enforce the adopted Zoning Ordinance. Zoning Permits are issued for new development, changes in use, and new uses in order to ensure compliance.
- 2. Identify “at risk” X Zone properties for added emphasis on flood risks and notify the responsible agencies about discrepancies between floodplain maps (FIRM versus SLOSH).**
 - The Town continues to identify at risk properties following storm events.
- 3. Continue enforcement of the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance**
 - The Town continues to enforce the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Building permits are not issued unless plans demonstrate compliance with the established requirements.
- 4. Implement stormwater management regulations**
 - The Town implemented stormwater management regulations in 2012 and continues to enforce those requirements. All lot disturbance permits and zoning permits, when applicable, are issued following demonstration of compliance.
- 5. Continue the enforcement of the NC State Fire Prevention Code, referenced by the Town Fire Code**
 - The Town continues to enforce the Town Fire Code. The Dare County Fire Marshall continues to conduct inspections (contracted service) of non-residential properties to ensure compliance.
- 6. Continue enforcing the Lot Disturbance provisions of the Zoning Ordinance**
 - The Town continues to enforce the Lot Disturbance provisions of the Zoning Ordinance. No grading, filling, or other alteration of the topography or elevation of any unimproved lot, or demolition and clearing of improved property, nor any manmade change to any improved real estate resulting in the discharge of stormwater onto adjacent property and requiring a building permit, is undertaken without prior issuance of a lot disturbance permit.
- 7. Continue the periodic controlled burns of marshland to reduce wildfire fuels**

- Has not been satisfied since 2009 as a result of piers/docks being built over the marsh areas.

8. Continue testing the fire hydrants once a year and recording data

- The Southern Shores Volunteer Fire Department continues to test fire hydrants once a year and records data. The last test was conducted in November, 2013 and the next test will take place in October or November, 2014.

9. Continue implementation of the Waterway Ordinance

- The Town continues to implement the Waterways and Beaches Ordinance. The Town Community Resource Officer and contracted lifeguard service conduct patrols of the beach to ensure compliance. All development along Town waterways is approved following demonstration of compliance. The Town continues to send Notices of Violation for canal obstructions.

10. Seek the maximum points available from the Community Rating System to keep flood insurance costs to the citizens as low as possible

- The Town continues to seek the maximum points available from the Community Rating System. The Town's last cycle visit was in 2010 which gave the Town a rating of Class 7 which is recertified annually until the next cycle visit in 2015. Communities with a Class 7 rating receive a 15% discount on insurance policies issued for properties in special flood hazard areas (SFHA's).

11. Conduct the Canal Inspection and Debris Removal program twice a year

- The Southern Shores Civic Association Boat Club conducts inspections of the canals every three to four weeks. The amount of debris has been minimal following completion of the Town's canal dredging project.

12. Continue enforcement of the state building code, including wind load requirements

- The Town continues to enforce the state building code, including wind load requirements. All building plans must demonstrate compliance prior to issuance of a building permit. The Building Inspector continues to conduct inspections during construction and no Certificate of Occupancy is issued unless all requirements are satisfied.

13. Provide property owners and developers with information regarding the construction of FEMA "Safe Rooms" from the effects of tornadoes and severe storms

- The Town continues to maintain a library of FEMA resources for storm preparation and other natural disasters.

14. Continue enforcement of the Dune Protection Ordinance

- The Town continues to enforce the Dune Protection Ordinance. The Town Community Resource Officer and contracted lifeguard service conduct patrols of the beach to ensure compliance.

15. Coordinate wildfire prevention efforts with tree preservation policies

- The Town encourages all property owners to contact the Southern Shores Volunteer Fire Department prior to any open burning.

16. Continue enforcing Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) regulations

- The Town continues to enforce the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) regulations. The Town's Local Permit Officers continue to review and issue Minor Permits in accordance with the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA).

17. Continue enforcing the state Erosion and Sedimentation Control regulations

- When applicable, all new development must obtain a State-issued permit prior to issuance of a building permit.

18. Continue to have a standing Reconstruction Task Force

- The Town Reconstruction Task Force will be appointed at the November 4, 2014 Town Council meeting.

19. Develop guidelines for reconstruction efforts

- Chapter 12, Article III of the Southern Shores Town Code and the 2014 Southern Shores Emergency Management Plan identify reconstruction efforts which enable the Town to control the issuance of building permits in order to manage the location, timing, and sequence of reconstruction and repair.

20. Communicate with citizens about plans and the problems of providing services after a storm event

- The Town utilizes social media and a bi-weekly newsletter to disseminate information regarding storm events and their affects.

21. Develop a better flood warning system

- The Town utilizes social media and a bi-weekly newsletter to disseminate information regarding storm events and their affects.

22. Continue to monitor NC Turnpike Authority plans for the Mid-Currituck Bridge to expedite evacuation

- The Town continues to monitor the NC Turnpike Authority plans for the Mid-Currituck Bridge to expedite evacuation. However, due to a lack of funding, the future construction of the bridge is uncertain.

23. Encourage food stores and pharmacies within the town to have alternative power supplies during and after storm events

- The Town continues to encourage food stores and pharmacies within the Town to have alternative power supplies during and after storm events.

24. Continue to provide an Emergency Operations Center

- The Town continues to provide an Emergency Operations Center when needed for storm events.

25. Keep emergency plans current and provide staff with continuing education opportunities

- The Town updates its Emergency Management Plan annually and provides Town Staff with continuing education opportunities.

26. Educate citizens on expected impacts of hazards on daily lives

- The Town utilizes social media and a bi-weekly newsletter to disseminate information regarding the impacts of hazards on daily lives.

27. Continue current public information outreach efforts regarding flooding

- The Town utilizes social media and a bi-weekly newsletter to disseminate information regarding flooding. The Town also mailed an informational brochure to all property owners within a Special Flood Hazard Area in June, 2014.

28. Continue e-mail and website services

- The Town continues to provide email and website services. The Town website is constantly updated in order to provide the most current information.

Implementation:

- The continuation of periodic controlled burns of marshland to reduce wildfire fuels objective has not been reached since the construction of piers/docks over the marsh areas began in 2009.

Recommendations:

- The Town's currently adopted Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted on June 11, 2010 which should be updated no later than 2015. In summer, 2014, Dare County and its municipalities were encouraged to participate in the development of the Albemarle Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (ARHMP). The Town of Southern Shores has been participating in the development of the ARHMP which is scheduled to be locally adopted no later than June, 2015 and will replace the Town's currently adopted Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Town should continue to participate in the development of the ARHMP until adoption.

Dissemination:

- This report will be presented at the October 7, 2014 Town Council meeting which will be broadcasted on the Government Channel GovTv and posted on YouTube.
- This report was made available to the public on September 24, 2014.